

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 222195

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 222195 ACTION ADDIS ABABA KHARTOUM
CAIRO DAMASCUS BEIRUT ASMARA SANA MOGADISCIO TRIPOLI JIDDA
17 SEPT

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 222195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CASC (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON KIDNAPPING
AMERICANS

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER, RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, AT AUG.
17 PRESS CONFERENCE IN VAIL, COLORADO, AND AT SEPT. 16 PRESS
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN ORLANDO BEFORE SOUTHERN
GOVERNORS CONFERENCE, STATED U.S. POSITION RE KIDNAPPING
OF AMERICANS ABROAD.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT COMMENTS FROM AUG. 17 PRESS
CONFERENCE IN VAIL:

"... PROBLEM THAT ARISES IN CASE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON
AMERICANS HAS TO BE SEEN NOT ONLY IN RELATION TO INDIVI-
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DUAL CASE BUT IN RELATION TO THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS WHO

ARE IN JEOPARDY ALL OVER WORLD. IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL CASE, OVERWHELMING TEMPTATION IS TO GO ALONG WITH WHAT IS BEING ASKED.

"ON OTHER HAND, IF TERRORIST GROUPS GET IMPRESSION THAT THEY CAN FORCE NEGOTIATION WITH UNITED STATES AND AN ACQUIESCENCE IN THEIR DEMANDS, THEN WE MAY SAVE LIVES IN ONE PLACE AT RISK OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES EVERYWHERE ELSE.

"THEREFORE, IT IS OUR POLICY -- IN ORDER TO SAVE LIVES AND IN ORDER TO AVOID UNDUE PRESSURE ON AMBASSADORS

ALL OVER WORLD -- IT IS OUR POLICY THAT AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOT PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON RELEASE OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISTS, AND THAT TERRORISTS KNOW THAT UNITED STATES WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN PAYMENT OF RANSOM AND IN NEGOTIATION. IN ANY

INDIVIDUAL CASE, THIS REQUIRES HEART-BREAKING DECISIONS.

"WE ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN A PRINCIPLE THAT TERRORISTS CANNOT NEGOTIATE WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, AND WE ARE DOING THIS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS THAT COULD BECOME VICTIMS ALL OVER WORLD IF WE ONCE STARTED THAT PROCESS, AND NOT ONLY AMERICAN TOURISTS AND STUDENTS, BUT ALSO AMERICAN OFFICIALS." (END EXCERPT)

3. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM SECRETARY'S SEPT. 16 PRESS CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO:

WHEN AMERICANS ARE CAPTURED, WE ARE ALWAYS IN GREAT DIFFICULTY BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO A POSITION WHERE WE ENCOURAGE TERRORISTS TO CAPTURE AMERICANS IN ORDER TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED FOR THEIR AIM. SO OUR GENERAL POSITION HAS BEEN -- AND IT IS HEART-

BREAKING IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, ALWAYS HEART-BREAKING-- OUR GENERAL POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE WILL NOT, AS A GOVERNMENT, NEGOTIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF AMERICANS THAT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

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"NOW, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE ONLY DEMANDS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ON US HAVE COME THROUGH TOTALLY UNAUTHENTICATED SOURCES; SO WE HAVEN'T ANY DECISIONS TO MAKE. WE HAVE HEARD RADIO BROADCASTS ON BEIRUT RADIO OF WHAT THE DEMANDS ARE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TIED TO ANYTHING OR TO ANYBODY THAT WE CAN DEAL WITH. BUT OUR GENERAL POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE, AS

A GOVERNMENT, WITH KIDNAPPERS OF AMERICANS BECAUSE THERE
ARE SO MANY AMERICANS IN SO MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD --
TOURISTS, NEWSMEN, NOT ONLY OFFICIALS -- THAT IT WILL
BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROTECT THEM ALL UNLESS THE KIDNAPPERS
CAN GAIN NO BENEFIT."

4. POLICY GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO ADDIS ABABA 11121 WILL
FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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